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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,899	11/03/2003	William C. Kimrell	5657	4370
7590	05/02/2006		EXAMINER	
John E. Vick Legal Department, M-495 PO Box 1926 Spartanburg, SC 29304			JUSKA, CHERYL ANN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1771	

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/699,899	KIMBRELL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cheryl Juska	1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7,9-39 and 41-51 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7,9-39 and 41-51 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3.) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/05, 03/06</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed March 6, 2006, has been entered. Claims 1, 7, 11, 18, 20-22, 39, 42, 46, 47, 50, and 51 have been amended as requested. Claims 8 and 40 have been cancelled. Thus, the pending claims are 1-7, 9-39, and 41-51.
2. Said amendment is sufficient to withdraw the 102 rejection set forth in section 3 of the last Office Action. Specifically, applicant has amended the independent claims with the subject matter of claims 8 and 40 (i.e., composition including a hydrophobic cross-linking agent). Since claims 8 and 40 were not rejected under 102 in the last Office Action, said amendment is sufficient to overcome the 102 anticipation rejection by the Wang reference (US 5,908,663).
3. Additionally, applicant's statement of co-assignment under 103(c) of the present invention and the invention of Kimbrell (US 6,899,923) is sufficient to withdraw said Kimbrell reference as available prior art. Furthermore, applicant's arguments with respect to the Nguyen reference (US 5,759,431) (Amendment, paragraph spanning pages 13-14) are found persuasive. Hence, the pending claims are no longer rejected over said reference.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 7 stands objected to for the duplication of the stain blocking component "sulfonated polyesters" in lines 11 and 14 of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-20, 22-31, 33-39, and 41-51 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,908,663 issued to Wang et al. in view of US 2004/0137814, US 2004/0137818, and/or US 2004/0138083, all issued to Kimbrell, Jr. et al.

Wang discloses a treatment for carpets comprising inorganic particles and a fluorochemical or other optional organic additive (abstract). Carpets so treated have improved soil resistance (abstract). The inorganic particles may be oxides or basic metal salts, such as silica, titanium, zirconium, or aluminum compounds (col. 3, lines 52-col. 4, line 6). Exemplary average particle sizes range from 5-100 nm (col. 4, line 50-col. 5, line 44). The various organic additives include repellent fluorochemicals, such as fluorochemical acrylates (col. 7, line 59-col. 8, line 49) and stainblockers, such as sulfonated novolac resins, acrylic resins, and styrene/maleic anhydride copolymers (col. 7, lines 1-6 and 27-58). Said organic additives may perform more than one function (col. 7, line 18). The fluorochemical repellent treatment preferably is present in an amount of at least 3% (col. 9, lines 1-16). Said treatment obviates the need for scouring (abstract), but the reference clearly teaches working examples that have been scoured (Tables 1-11 and 13). Said scoured carpet samples have spin finish oil residues ranging from about 0.01-0.26% by weight of spin finish (i.e., oil residue) (col. 11, lines 62-65 and col. 12, lines 22-23). The carpets may be made of a wide variety of carpet fibers including polypropylene, nylon, acrylic, or wool (col. 11, lines 54-57) and may have a loop or cut pile (col. 11, line 60 and col. 12, line 2). Tables 1-9 and 11-13 show ΔΔE values of less than 10.

Wang fails to teach the addition of a hydrophobic crosslinking agent. However, the use of crosslinking agents in the art of stain resistant treatments for carpet is known in the art. For example, Kimbrell teaches said treatment comprising a hydrophilic stain release agent and a hydrophobic stain repellency agent crosslinked by a hydrophobic crosslinking agent ('814, sections [0050] and [0053]; '818, sections [0050] and [0053]; and '083, sections [0052] and [0055]). Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to employ a crosslinking agent as disclosed by the Kimbrell references in order to crosslink the fluoropolymer of Wang to provide stain repellency. Therefore, claims 1-7, 10, 13-19, 23-31, 33-38, and 41-51 are rejected as being obvious over the cited prior art.

Since the organic additives may have more than one function and more than one organic additive can be added, it is argued that the limitation to "two distinct component types which afford stain release properties" in claim 9 is met. Additionally, since the actual chemical compounds applicant employs for the separate stain *release* component overlap with the chemical compounds employed for the fluorochemical repellent and stain resist or stain blocking component, the limitations of claims 11, 20, 22, and 39 are similarly rejected.

7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) is rejected over the cited Wang reference in view of the cited Kimbrell references as applied to claim 11 above and in further view of US 5,573,553 issued to McBride et al.

Wang and Kimbrell fail to teach the addition of a bleach resistant component. However, use of said component is known in the art. For example, McBride teaches a bleach resistant component suitable for treating carpet substrates (abstract). thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ a bleach resistant component in the carpet treatment of

Wang in order to prevent said carpet from discoloration due to bleaching. Therefore, claim 12 is rejected.

8. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) is rejected over the cited Wang and Kimbrell references and in further view of US 5,540,968 issued to Higgins.

Wang and Kimbrell fail to explicitly teach the claimed carpet tile having a stabilizing material. However, this carpet structure is well known in the art. For example, Higgins teaches a carpet tile having a primary carpet fabric comprising pile yarns tufted into a primary backing, and adhesive layer, and a layer of a stabilizing material in contact with said adhesive layer (col. 1, lines 29-41). Therefore, it would have been readily obvious to one skilled in the art to employ the known carpet tile structure for the carpet of Wang since said structure is a well-known, dimensionally stable, and commercially successful carpet structure. Therefore, claim 21 is rejected as being obvious over the cited prior art.

9. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) is rejected over the cited Wang and Kimbrell references as applied to claim 22 above.

While Wang and Kimbrell fail to explicitly teach the claimed polyester carpet fibers, it would have been readily obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ said polyester fibers for the carpet yarns of the Wang invention. Specifically, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. Therefore, claim 32 is rejected.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

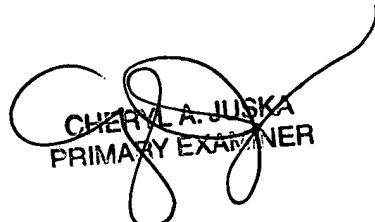
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Juska whose telephone number is 571-272-1477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10am-6pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached at 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHERYL A. JUSKA". Below the signature, the words "PRIMARY EXAMINER" are printed in capital letters.

cj

May 1, 2006